

REMARKS

Claim 17 has been canceled. Claims 1-16 and 18-20 are in the application.

The Examiner required a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. A new title is submitted herein that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim 6 was objected to because of an informality. In explaining this objection, the Examiner stated that "form" in line 6 of claim 6 should be changed to --from--. Claim 6 has been amended herein so as to incorporate such change.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-17, and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanimura et al. (WO 97/36295, see U.S. Patent No. 6,594,440 B1 for corresponding).

Independent claim 1 as presented herein is as follows:

"An information processing apparatus having unique identification information **connected to a network with one or more of other information processing apparatuses each connected to said network** and each having unique identification information, said information processing apparatus comprising:

function execution means for executing a predetermined function;

communication means for communicating with said other information processing apparatus connected to said network by sending and/or receiving packets on said network;

input means for inputting reservation information concerning a reservation of said predetermined function;

storage means for storing the reservation information concerning the reservation of said predetermined function; and

supply means for reading out the reservation information stored in said storage means and supplying the reservation information to said other information processing apparatus connected to said network via said communication means in response to a request from said other information processing apparatus connected to said network.." (Underlining and bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that Tanimura as applied by the Examiner (hereinafter, merely "Tanimura") does not appear to disclose all of the features of claim 1. For example, Fig. 1 of Tanimura does not appear to disclose an information processing apparatus "connected to a network with one or more of other information processing apparatuses each connected to said network" and "communication means for communicating with said other information processing apparatus connected to said network by sending and/or receiving packets on said network" as in claim 1. Instead, Fig. 1 of Tanimura appears to merely illustrate a timer reservation device for possible use with a VTR.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is distinguishable from Tanimura. For similar or somewhat similar reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 19 and 20 are also distinguishable from Tanimura.

Claims 2-3, 5, 7-10, and 12-17 are dependent from one of the independent claims and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Tanimura for at least the reasons previously described.

Claims 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanimura in view of Oguro et al. ('220 B2).

Claims 4 and 6 are dependent from one of the independent claims and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Tanimura for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner does not appear to have relied upon Oguro to overcome the

above-described deficiencies of Tanimura. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 4 and 6 are distinguishable over the applied combination of Tanimura and Oguro.

Claims 11 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanimura.

Claims 11 and 18 are dependent from one of the independent claims and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from Tanimura for at least the reasons previously described.

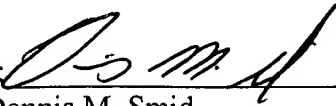
In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference or references, there is the bases for a contrary view.

The Examiner has apparently made of record, but not applied, several documents. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that these documents, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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